



Washington State Health Care Authority

P.O. Box 42700 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2700
360-923-2837 • FAX 360-923-2606 • TTY 360-923-2701 • www.hca.wa.gov

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TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Pete Cutler, Administrator
Health Care Authority

Dennis Braddock, Secretary
Department of Social and Health Services

Paul Trause, Director
Labor and Industries

SUBJECT: State Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee

Under Section 9 of Senate Bill 6088, state agencies, in developing an evidence-prescription drug program, must establish an independent pharmacy and therapeutics (P&T) committee to review and evaluate the effectiveness of prescription drugs. To meet federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requirements applying to Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) programs, the state P&T Committee will also be fulfilling the role of a Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board.

To meet the CMS requirements for DUR boards, physicians and pharmacists must each be between 31 and 51 percent of board membership. To address this requirement we have established a P&T Committee with 10 members that include 4 physicians, 4 pharmacists, 1 physician's assistant, and 1 ARNP.

CMS Criteria for DUR Board Members

The federal regulations also require that members serving on a DUR Board have recognized knowledge and expertise in one or more of the following:

- Clinically appropriate prescribing of covered outpatient drugs
- Clinically appropriate dispensing and monitoring of covered outpatient drugs
- Drug use review
- Medical quality assurance
- Disease state management

In addition, the federal regulations require that members be actively practicing in their clinical area of expertise.

Additional Criteria for State P&T Committee Selection

To address the goals of the legislation and best meet program needs, the following selection criteria were added to the above federal criteria for determining P&T Committee members:

- Candidate is not currently employed by a pharmaceutical manufacturer, a pharmacy benefits management company, or by any agency administering state purchased health care programs
- Candidate's main practice focus is outpatient care
- Specialties represented on the Committee include Family Practice, Internal Medicine, or Behavioral Health (due to the major role of these specialties in prescribing medications taken by program participants)
- Candidate has experience in evidence-based medicine
- Previous experience serving on a pharmacy and therapeutics committee.
- Committee membership is representative of programs' geographic distribution.
- Candidates who are active in professional societies are preferred
- Candidate has not had any state licensure actions or Medicaid/Medicare sanctions.

In May and April of this year, our three agencies began to compile nominations for the Committee. The request for nominations was formally announced at the Drug Utilization Education Council (DUEC) meetings, and disseminated through the Washington State Medical Association (WSMA), Washington State Pharmacy Association (WSPA), and Washington State Academy of Physicians Assistants (WAPA). We also took several nominations from groups or individuals who made inquiries.

In total, 11 physicians, 12 pharmacists, 2 physician's assistants and one ARNP were nominated. These nominees were reviewed by the pharmacy director and medical director of each agency, based on the criteria shown above, and reduced to a list of ten recommended candidates.

On July 15, 2003, we met to review these recommendations. After a thorough evaluation there was unanimous agreement in selecting the following ten candidates as they include a good cross-section in terms of the targeted specialties and geographic distribution (four of the recommended candidates are from Eastern Washington). Collectively, they are very active and represent a large number of provider training programs (such as physician residency programs) and professional associations. Four previously served on the MAA DUEC Committee.

Robert Bray, M.D.

Dr. Bray is in active Family Practice as the Assistant Director, Family Medicine Spokane which is a family practice residency program in Spokane, WA. He has been in practice in the state of Washington since 1984. Dr. Bray is a member of the Washington State Medical Association.

Carol Cordy, M.D.

Dr. Cordy is in active Family Practice at the 45th St. Community Clinic in Seattle where she is Site Director for the Swedish Family Practice Residency Program. She has been a member and co chair of the MAA DUEC for the past two years. Because of this position she has extensive experience in evidence-based medicine.

Daniel Lessler, M.D. Internal Medicine,

Dr. Lessler is in active Internal Medicine practice as the Associate Medical Director, Ambulatory Care Services at Harborview Medical Center, Seattle, WA. Through Harborview he is active in UW residency programs. Dr. Lessler has been a member of the MAA DUEC for the last six months.

T. Vyn Reese, M.D.

Dr. Reese practices Internal Medicine as the Section Chief, General Internal Medicine, Madison Clinic, Pacific Medical Center Seattle, WA. He is the chair of the Pacific Medical Center P&T committee and also is a member of PacifiCare's National formulary committee.

Angelo Ballasiotes, PharmD.

Dr. Ballasiotes practices pharmacy with prescriptive authority to treat mentally ill and chemically affected patients at Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health inpatient and outpatient program. Dr. Ballasiotes has previously owned a pharmacy as a private business owner. He is a member of the Yakima County Pharmacy Association.

Alvin Goo, PharmD.

Dr. Goo is a clinical pharmacist at Harborview Medical Center, Department of Pharmacy and Family Medicine, Seattle, WA. Through Harborview, he is active in UW residency programs. He has been a member of the MAA DUEC for the past several years.

Jason Iltz, PharmD.

Dr. Iltz is a clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Anticoagulation Clinic, at Group Health Cooperative in Spokane, WA. He began his career as a staff pharmacist at Group Health Cooperative in 1995. Dr. Iltz is a member of the Washington State Pharmacy Association.

Janet Kelly, PharmD.

Dr. Kelly focuses on outcomes and cost management of pharmaceuticals at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle, WA. One of her primary responsibilities in this role is educating staff how to use and interpret pharmacoeconomic data. As a pharmacoeconomic expert, her qualifications will bring important strengths to the Committee and its review of data on cost-effectiveness.

John White, PA, PharmD

Dr. White is Physician Assistant practicing primary care at the Indian Health Service Clinic, in Wellpinit, WA. He is also a professor of pharmacotherapy at Washington State University. Dr. White is a member of the Washington Academy of Physician Assistants.

Patty Varley, ARNP

Ms. Varley is a Psychiatric Nurse Specialist at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center, in Seattle, WA. She has been a member of the MAA DUEC for the last few years. She is a member of ARNPs United and the Washington State Nurses Association.